

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 26002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VS, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 28TH PLENARY SESSION, OCTOBER 4, 1973

1. SUMMARY: IN A REPLAY OF THE KLEBER SESSION LAST DECEMBER 21 THE PRG MADE ITS PRESENTATION AND WALKED OUT BEFORE THE GVN COULD RESPOND. HIEU'S PREPARED STATEMENT EXCORIATED THE U.S. AND GVN FOR ESCALATING THE WARFARE IN SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT. HIS ACCUSATIONS INCLUDED CHARGES THAT MASSACRES HAD OCCURRED DURING ARVN OPERATIONS AND THAT A U.S. FLOTILLA HAD MADE A SHOW OF FORCE OFF NGHE AN PROVINCE OF THE DRV. IN DEMANDING FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT HIEU RESERVED FULL PRG RIGHTS OF "SELF-DEFENSE". HIEU'S CLOSING WORDS SET THE NEXT SESSION FOR OCTOBER 11. VIEN TOLD THE PRESS THAT SINCE GVNDEL VIEWS ON SCHEDULING HAD NEITHER BEEN SOUGHT NOR CONVEYED, SCHEDULING WAS AN OPEN QUESTION PENDING CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS ABOUT THE PRG WALKOUT WERE BRIEF AND RESTRAINED. PRG SPOKESMAN SAU LATER REITERATED HIEU'S EMPHASIS UPON ALLEGED U.S./GVN ALL-OUT SABOTAGE OF THE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. IT WAS THE PRG'S TURN TO SPEAK FIRST. HIEU CHARGED

THAT THE SITUATION IN SVN HAD WORSENEDED MARKEDLY OF LATE BECAUSE THE U.S. AND GVN HAD INCREASED WARFARE TO UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS, HAD SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AND WERE PREPARING "NEW MILITARY ADVENTURES." AFTER CITING A NUMBER OF ALLEGED ARVN OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS, INCLUDING LE MINH, HIEU CHARACTERIZED THEM AS INCLUDING "CRIMES OF UNEARD-OF SAVAGERY NO DIFFERENT THAN THOSE COMMITTED PREVIOUSLY BY THE AMERICAN TROOPS AT SON MY." (I.E. MY LAI).

3. HIEU NEXT DENOUNCED RECENT GVN PROTESTS AGAINST THE WARFARE AS "BOASTFUL CALUMNIES" SERVING AS PRETEXTS FOR FURTHER ESCALATION. HE SAID THAT THE GVN HAD "INSULTED, PROVOKED, AND THREATENED" THE PRGDEL, TPJMC. AT LA CELLE ST. CLOUD THE GVNDL HAD SHOWN A "WHOLLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE" AND HAD "ARROGANTLY CALUMNIED" THE PRG.

4. MEANWHILE THE U.S., HIEU CONTINUED, HAD (A) PERSISTED IN SENDING ARMS AND WAR MATERIEL INTO SVN; (B) ENCOURAGED THE GVN TO SABOTAGE THE AGREEMENT; AND (C) "PERPETRATED IMPUDENT PROVOCATIONS" AGAINST THE DRV BY SENDING "AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, DESTROYERS, AND AIRCRAFT OFF THE PROVINCE OF NGHE AN." (AT HIS SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE PRG SPOKESMAN SAU ALLEGED THAT IT WAS THE USS HANCOCK, SOME 50-60 MILES OFFSHORE DURING SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2, AND THAT ITS AIRCRAFT HAD MADE LOW-ALTITUDE PASSES TO INTIMIDATE DRV FISHING BOATS.)

5. IN CLOSING HIEU SAID THAT THE PRG DEMANDED THAT THE U.S. AND GVN CEASE ALL VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AND THAT THE PRG WOULD TOLERATE NO VIOLATIONS. THE PRG FULLY RESERVED THE RIGHT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO DEFEND THE AGREEMENT AND THE PRG POPULATION, ZONE, "AIR SPACE, AND TERRITORIAL WATERS." AS A SIGN OF PROTEST THE PRGDEL WAS CLOSING THE 28TH SESSION AND ADDED THAT "THE NEXT SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 11."

6. THE PRGDEL WITHDREW BEFORE THE GVNDL COULD REPLY.
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GVN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VIEN REMARKED TO THE PRESS THAT HE FOUND THE PRGDEL CONDUCT DISCOURTEOUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE. VIEN SAID THAT SINCE THE DATE OF THE NEXT SESSION HAD NOT BEEN JOINTLY AGREED, THE TWO SIDES WOULD HAVE TO CONFER ON THE MATTER.

7. PRG SPOKESMAN SAU LATER DESCRIBED HIEU'S TACTICS AS "A SHOW OF INDIGNATION" IN OFFICIAL PROTEST AGAINST

GVN VIOLATIONS. COMPLAINING THAT THE PRESS PLAYED UP PRG VIOLATIONS BUT NEVER THOSE BY THE GVN, SAU GAVE A LONG RECITAL OF ALLEGED ARVN OFFENSIVES. HIS ALLEGATIONS WENT INTO EXTENSIVE DETAIL OVER ARVN UNITS INVOLVED AND CASUALTIES INCURRED. RECENT BATTLES IN TAY NINH AND AT LE MINH WERE DUE TO ARVN INCURSIONS INTO PRG TERRITORY. SAU HELD THAT AT LE MINH THE PRG HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID AN ARMED CONFRONTATION, BY SERVING NOTICE AND ISSUING WARNINGS, ETC., BUT HAD FINALLY BEEN OBLIGED TO RESPOND WITH FORCE, SCORING A GREAT VICTORY THEREBY. HE DERIDED PRESIDENT THIEU'S PLEIKU SPEECH AS AN ATTEMPT TO CAMOUFLAGE U.S./GVN DESIGNS FOR THEIR OWN 1974 OFFENSIVE, WHILE THE THREATENED "ECONOMIC BLOCKADE" OF PRG ZONES WAS A SHAM. THERE WERE AMPLE RICE STOCKS IN THE PRG ZONES, SAU ALLEGED, WHILE SAIGON MOTHERS WERE KILLING THEIR STARVING CHILDREN TO END THEIR MISERY. SAU'S MAJOR THEME THROUGHOUT WAS THAT BOTH THE U.S. AND GVN ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST "TO SABOTAGE THE AGREEMENT AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE." MOSSLER

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